(b) what are the details of the tax defaulters; and

(c) why Government are justifying reduction in subsidies and sale of Government shares in PSUs and on the other hand thousands of crores of rupees doled out to the corporate and are now moving to write off Rs. 85,000 crores?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir. Only absolutely irrecoverable arrears of taxes are written off as per the detailed procedure laid down in this regard on a case-to-case basis. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to write off non-recoverable demand in a summary manner.

(b) The outstanding arrers of taxes as on 31.12.2006 are as under:—

(i) Direct Taxes — Rs. 95,698 crores

(ii) Indirect Taxes — Rs. 25,802 crores

The details of the tax defaulters is quite bulky and the time and labour involved in its collection/compilation may not be commensurate with the objectives sought to be achieved.

(c) In view of reply to part (a) above, the question does not arise.

Domestic LPG subsidy

*37. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy given on domestic LPG during the last three years;

(b) the consumption of domestic LPG during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to phase out subsidy on domestic LPG; and

(d) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to provide domestic LPG at affordable rates to the consumers, particularly the lower middle class?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) The amount of subsidy given from fiscal budget on domestic LPG since 2003-04 is given as under:

Year	Rs. in crore
2003-04	3635.02
2004-05	1783.64
2005-06	1604.77

In addition the upstream oil companies and Government have also contributed for the under-recoveries incurred by the Oil Marketing Companies in marketing of petrol, diesel, domestic LPG and PDS kerosene as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Upstream Sharing	Government Oil Bonds
2003-04	3,123	—
2004-05	5947	—
2005-06	14,000	11,500

(b) The consumption of domestic LPG during the past three years is as follows:

Year	TMT
2003-04	8775
2004-05	9577
2005-06	9501

(c) and (d) Government is administering the PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG Subsidy Scheme, 2002 through which the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) are being paid subsidy currently at 1/3rd level of 2002-03 at a flat rate from the Union Budget. The subsidy from Government has been frozen at the current level and is to be phased out in 2006-07. The issue of further continuation of the Scheme is under the consideration of the Government.